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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 11, 2005**

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### **WAIPAHU GRAFFITI CLEAN-UP ATTRACTS OVER 60 VOLUNTEERS**

More than 60 volunteers, armed with brushes, rollers and paint, will assault unwanted graffiti tomorrow for Waipahu's community-wide effort to rid itself of the eyesore. Volunteers will gather at the Leeward YMCA parking lot on Mokuola Street around 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 12, 2005 before breaking into groups to remove graffiti on walls, sidewalks, bus stops, drainage canals and other public areas in Waipahu. The effort will conclude around noon.

A number of elected officials representing the area have indicated they will participate, including State Sen. Clarence Nishihara, State Representatives Rida Cabanilla, Jon Riki Karamatsu, Alex Sonson and Ryan Yamane, according to Honolulu City Councilmember Nestor Garcia, whose office is helping coordinate the effort on behalf of co-sponsors Waipahu Community Association and the Leeward YMCA.

"A big part of the success of this campaign is the generous participation of local merchants, who are donating everything from paint and cleaning supplies to refreshments for the volunteers," Garcia said.

Home Depot and City Mill are donating hundreds of gallons of paint and supplies, while Castle & Cooke will contribute bottled water for the volunteers. Garcia said elected officials from the area have agreed to share in the cost of providing lunches for the volunteers while he will donate breakfast and refreshments for the workers.

Garcia said sponsors and community leaders are hopeful for a big success on this outing because "it will give us the impetus to make this a regular happening."

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